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EXAMINER

WHIPPLE, BRIAN P

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2152

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/617,136	Applicant(s) JUSZKIEWICZ, HENRY E.	
	Examiner Brian P. Whipple	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 67-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 67-83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/26/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/26/08 has been entered.

2. Claims 67-83 are pending in this application and presented for examination. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-34, 36-43, 45, and 47-66 have been cancelled by Applicant's amendment filed on 2/26/08. Claims 67-83 have been added by Applicant's amendment filed on 2/26/08.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 78 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. As to claim 78, the phrase “the network/computer system interface” lacks antecedent basis. The term “the network/computer system interface **module**” is previously used. Appropriate correction is required.

7. As to claim 81, the phrase “the first network electronics device interface module” lacks antecedent basis. The term “the first network/electronics device interface module” is previously used. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international

application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 67, 78-80, and 82-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Edson, U.S. Patent No. 6,526,581 B1.

10. As to claim 67, Edson discloses a consumer electronics device communication and control system, comprising:

a data network (Col. 5, ln. 36-37, “in-home network **11**”);

a gateway device (Fig. 1, item 13, “GATEWAY”) including a gateway data network input interface connected to the data network (Abstract, ln. 7-10, “gateway comprises interfaces to... one or more in-home communication media”; Fig. 2, items 121, 123, and 125, Col. 9, ln. 66 – Col. 10, ln. 1, “gateway **13** includes a number of internal media interfaces, shown for example as interfaces **121**, **123** and **125**”), an external network interface (Abstract, ln. 7-10, “gateway comprises interfaces to a plurality of external communication networks”; Fig. 2, items 115, 117 and 119; Col. 10, ln. 1-3, “gateway **13** also includes two or more external network interfaces shown for example as interfaces **115**, **117** and **119**”), a data network/external network interface module (Fig. 2, *especially* items 101, 103, and 127; Col. 10, ln. 3-6, “Within the gateway all of these interfaces interconnect and communicate with

the firewall and router, using the appropriate router protocol, e.g., TCP, IP or Ethernet, etc.”);

a first electronics device (Fig. 2, item 312, “D1/2-INT”) including a first electronics device network input interface (Fig. 4, item 63, “HPNA INTR.”) connected to the data network (Abstract, ln. 11-22, “Each device specific accessing the in-home network connects to media through a device interface.”; Col. 13, ln. 20-23, the telephone is able to communicate via the home network with devices such as the user’s PC; Col. 13, ln. 50-54, “the HPNA interface provides two-way digital communications as well as baseband analog telephone communications”; Col. 14, ln. 25-28, “**63** provides the physical conversions necessary to communicate the packet data to and from the PAD **61** via the twisted pair media, to communicate with the gateway **13** and other devices coupled to the media **21**”; the telephone may communicate with other devices over the network through the use its specific device interface, which enables conversion between signals for use by the network and telephone signals for use by the telephone itself; the specific device interface itself includes interfaces both for the network and for the telephone, i.e. interfaces such as items 51, 53, 55, and 63 of Fig. 4), a first electronics device network output interface (Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 13, ln. 64-66, “During digital operations, the analog interface **55** converts between two-wire analog signals used by the telephone **32** and four wire send and receive signals.”), and a first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, “CODEC”)

connected between the first electronics device output interface and the first electronics device network input interface (Fig. 4, items 55, 57, 61, and 63; Col. 13, ln. 66 – Col. 14, ln. 1; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 8-10, and 18-19; signals are passed from the analog interface to the codec for conversion to digital signals to be passed to the PAD, which are in turn passed to the HPNA interface; therefore analog-to-digital conversion is performed by the codec, which as seen in Fig. 4, lies between the input and output interfaces) and adapted to communicate over the data network through the first electronics device network input interface (Fig. 4, items 57, 61, and 63; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 8-10, 18-19, and 25-28; signals are passed from the codec to the PAD, passed from the PAD to the HPNA interface, and finally the HPNA interface enables communication to other devices coupled to the media **21**);

a second electronics device (Fig. 4, item 32) coupled to the first electronics device network output interface (Fig. 4, items 32, 51, 53, and 55; Col. 13, ln. 24-28, the telephone connects with an RJ-11 plug into an RJ-11 jack, which is coupled to the analog interface, the analog interface previously discussed above as representing the first electronics device output interface), wherein the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, “CODEC”) is adapted to communicate with the second electronics device (Fig. 4, items 32, 51, 53, 55, and 57; Col. 13, ln. 64 – Col. 14, ln. 4, the analog interface communicates with the CODEC , which performs two-way conversions between analog and digital signal format, which are then in turn passed from the analog interface back to the telephone via the RJ-11

format) so that the first and second electronics device can communicate directly without utilizing the data network or the gateway (Fig. 1, items 21, 32, and 312; Fig. 4; Col. 13, ln. 24-28 and 64-66; Col. 14, ln. 25-28; communications between the telephone and the device interface occur on the other side of the HPNA interface's connection to the media enabling communications between devices, in other words the telephone and device interface communicate without accessing the network, instead communicating via the use of a direction connection, i.e. RJ-11), and further wherein the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, "CODEC") is adapted to transmit communications from the second electronics device to the data network (Col. 13, ln. 24-28; Col. 13, ln. 64 – Col. 14, ln. 4; Col. 14, ln. 8-13 and 25-28; the telephone communicates via the analog interface to the CODEC, which is adapted to perform analog-to-digital conversion in order to transmit communications from the second electronics device upstream to the PAD, and eventually out the HPNA interface to the network) and to receive and forward communications from the data network to the second electronics device (Fig. 4, items 21, 32, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, and 63; Col. 13, ln. 20-23, "the device specific interface **312** providing digitals communications for the analog telephone **32**"; Col. 13, ln. 50-54 and 64-66; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 13-17, and 25-28; digital communications may be received via the network from other devices and are accordingly translated from digital to analog through the use of the HPNA interface, PAD, CODEC, and analog interface);

a third electronics device (Fig. 1, item 43; Col. 7, ln. 49-54, “one or more personal computers... **43** coupled to the network”) including a third electronics device network input interface connected to the data network (Fig. 1, item 323; Col. 12, ln. 38-44, “interface **323**, for the PC **43**, preferably takes the form of a LAN card... and provides the physical interface to the particular type of in-home LAN media”), the third electronics device adapted to communicate over the data network with the first and second electronics devices (Fig. 1; Col. 7, ln. 49-54, “PC preferably provides a user interface to allow monitoring and control of other devices on the network **11**”; Col. 12, ln. 44-52, “convert between the message set of the API and the message set utilized by the PC **43**”; Col. 14, ln. 30-36, “application program interface... interaction with a POTS telephone **32**”; the PC is able to control other devices in the network such as the telephone, appliances, TV, etc.) without utilizing the gateway (Fig. 1; the GATEWAY provides access to external methods of communication such as CATV, X-LINK, and ADSL; internal communications occur without connection to the GATEWAY through the use of the POWER LINE and/or TWISTED PAIR); and

wherein the first, second, and third electronics devices can communicate with external networks (Abstract, ln. 17-22, “the device specific interfaces... enable communication over the media and... external communication services through the gateway; Fig. 1; internal devices may communicate to external networks through the GATEWAY and its connections 15, 17, and 19) via the external network interface of the

gateway (Col. 5, ln. 45-47, “the gateway **13** connects to and provides appropriate interfaces to two or more external communications networks through lines or links **15-19**”).

11. As to claim 78, Edson discloses the gateway device (Fig. 1, item 13, “GATEWAY”) comprises a network/computer system interface module (Fig. 2, item 103, “ROUTER”) connected to the gateway network input interface (Fig. 2, item 121, “HPNA INTR.” corresponds to gateway network input interface as discussed above for claim 67; Fig. 2, item 103; a line is drawn between 103 and 121, representing a connection) and a computer system interface (Fig. 2, item 101, “FIRE-WALL”) connected to the network/computer system interface (Fig. 2, items 101 and 103; a line is drawn between 101 and 103, representing a connection) so that the computer system interface (Fig. 2, item 101, “FIRE-WALL”) can communicate with the external network interface (Abstract, ln. 7-10, “gateway comprises interfaces to a plurality of external communication networks”; Fig. 2, items 115, 117 and 119; Col. 10, ln. 1-3, “gateway **13** also includes two or more external network interfaces shown for example as interfaces **115**, **117** and **119**”) without utilizing the data network (Fig. 2, items 101, 115, 117, and 119; lines are drawn between 101 and each of 115, 117, and 119, representing connections; all of the connections occur within a single device, the GATEWAY, therefore use of the data network is not required for the connections to occur).

12. As to claim 79, Edson discloses the data network/external network interface module (Fig. 2, *especially* items 101, 103, and 127; Col. 10, ln. 3-6, “Within the gateway all of these interfaces interconnect and communicate with the firewall and router, using the appropriate router protocol, e.g., TCP, IP or Ethernet, etc.”) is a data network/Internet interface module (Fig. 2, *especially* items 101, 103, and 127; Col. 10, ln. 3-6, “Within the gateway all of these interfaces interconnect and communicate with the firewall and router, using the appropriate router protocol, e.g., TCP, IP or Ethernet, etc.”, IP is one of the protocols mentioned, IP is the Internet Protocol; Col. 6, ln. 18-26, “the ADSL line **15** typically provides access to the public data network, now commonly referred to as the Internet”) and the external network interface (Abstract, ln. 7-10, “gateway comprises interfaces to a plurality of external communication networks”; Fig. 2, items 115, 117 and 119; Col. 10, ln. 1-3, “gateway **13** also includes two or more external network interfaces shown for example as interfaces **115**, **117** and **119**”) is an Internet interface connected to the Internet (Fig. 2, *especially* items 101, 103, and 127; Col. 10, ln. 3-6, “Within the gateway all of these interfaces interconnect and communicate with the firewall and router, using the appropriate router protocol, e.g., TCP, IP or Ethernet, etc.”, IP is one of the protocols mentioned, IP is the Internet Protocol; Col. 6, ln. 18-26, “the ADSL line **15** typically provides access to the public data network, now commonly referred to as the Internet”).

13. As to claim 80, Edson discloses the data network/external network interface module (Fig. 2, *especially* items 101, 103, and 127; Col. 10, ln. 3-6, “Within the gateway all of these interfaces interconnect and communicate with the firewall and router, using the appropriate router protocol, e.g., TCP, IP or Ethernet, etc.”) is a data network/telephone system interface module (Fig. 1, item 13; Col. 4, ln. 31-35, “the gateway may interface to telephone wiring”; Col. 5, ln. 58-63, “the gateway **13** connects to a first external communications network link shown as a digital subscriber line... DSL type line is a communication service provided by a local exchange carrier over a telephone line”) and the external network interface (Abstract, ln. 7-10, “gateway comprises interfaces to a plurality of external communication networks”; Fig. 2, items 115, 117 and 119; Col. 10, ln. 1-3, “gateway **13** also includes two or more external network interfaces shown for example as interfaces **115**, **117** and **119**”) is a telephone system interface (Fig. 1, item 13; Col. 4, ln. 31-35, “the gateway may interface to telephone wiring”; Col. 5, ln. 58-63, “the gateway **13** connects to a first external communications network link shown as a digital subscriber line... DSL type line is a communication service provided by a local exchange carrier over a telephone line”).

14. As to claim 82, Edson discloses the first electronics device (Fig. 2, item 312, “D1/2-INT”) further comprising a data source (Fig. 4, item 61, “PAD”) connected to the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, “CODEC”; Col. 14, ln. 8-17,

“CODEC 57 exchanges digitized and compressed voice signals with a packet assemble/dissembler”), the data source (Fig. 4, item 61, “PAD”) adapted to generate and transmit digital data to the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, “CODEC”; Col. 14, ln. 8-17, “CODEC 57 exchanges digitized and compressed voice signals with a packet assemble/dissembler”).

15. As to claim 83, Edson discloses the data source (Fig. 4, item 61, “PAD”) is adapted to generate digital audio (Col. 14, ln. 10-11, “the PAD 61 separates the bit stream of compressed digital voice signals into segments”) and control data (Col. 14, ln. 10-13, “wraps each segment into an addressed packet, for example in TCP/IP form”) and the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, “CODEC”) is adapted to communicate the digital audio and control data to the data network (Col. 14, ln. 8-10, 18-19, and 25-28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson as applied to claim 67 above.

18. As to claim 68, Edson discloses the first electronics device is a wireless network access device (Col. 7, ln. 10-15, “internal media may be wireless”) including a wireless interface connected to the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, items 21 and 63, if the internal media is wireless, then clearly the HPNA interface will be a wireless interface in order to communicate over the wireless media to other devices in the in-home network), further comprising:

a wireless consumer electronics device wirelessly coupled to the wireless interface (Fig. 1; in the scenario where wireless media is used, as opposed to the exemplary POWER LINE and TWISTED PAIR, then all devices, through the use of their specific device interfaces, will be wireless consumer electronics devices wirelessly coupled to the wireless interfaces, such as the HPNA interface).

Edson’s exemplary scenario makes us of wired mediums such as the power line and twisted pair of Fig. 1, but Edson clearly intends for wireless communications to be an available option (Col. 6, ln. 43-46, “gateway **13** may provide connections... for example using wireless communications”; Col. 7, ln. 10-15, “internal media may be wireless”).

Wireless communications are extremely well known in the art and were so at the time of the invention. Wireless communications eliminate the need for wires, which can be cumbersome and hinder mobility.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by using the suggested wireless media and interfaces in order to gain the above-mentioned advantages.

19. Claims 69 and 71-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson as applied to claim 67 above, in view of what was well known in the art.

20. As to claim 69, Edson discloses the first electronics device includes a device capabilities module (Fig. 4, item 59) connected to the first network/electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, items 55, 57, 59, and 61), the capabilities module adapted to transmit capabilities information associated with the first electronics device to the first network/electronics device interface module (Col. 14, ln. 30-38), and wherein the first network/electronics device interface module is adapted to broadcast the capabilities information to the data network (Col. 7, ln. 49-54, “one or more personal computers... **43** coupled to the network”; Col. 13, ln. 40-45; Col. 13, ln. 64-66; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 8-10, 18-19, and 29-38; the telephone communicates with the networked devices through the use of

controller **59**, the analog interface, the CODEC, the PAD, and the HPNA interface; in order to enable communications with the telephone, clearly the capabilities of said phone must be known to the other devices in the network, such as the “one or more personal computers... **43** coupled to the network”; in addition, the controller **59** includes its own API and operating system, which would enable the broadcast of capabilities to the network) and directly to the second electronics device via the first electronics device network output interface (Col. 13, ln. 40-45; Col. 14, ln. 30-38, “controller **59** controls the analog interface **55** to provide the actual physical interface **48** to the telephone **32**”; the controller **59** enables the telephone to communicate to perform the functions it is capable of, such as initiating digital communications, generating signals to ring the telephone, etc.).

Edson may be interpreted as being silent on explicitly broadcasting capabilities information as claimed. Edson fails to mention a broadcast message explicitly.

Official Notice (see MPEP 2144.03) is taken that broadcasting a device’s capabilities is extremely well known in the art. Network communications hinge on new device’s informing the network of their presence and capabilities. For example, it is known to broadcast the presence and capabilities of new networking devices such as new routers, new switches, and new wireless access points, in addition to providing information on new clients or other internal devices within a network. Failure to do so, would limit the network’s reliability and the proper integration of devices into the network.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by broadcasting capabilities information as is extremely well known in the art in order to gain the above-mentioned advantages.

21. As to claim 71, Edson discloses a legacy bridge device (Fig. 1, item 311) comprising:

a legacy network input interface coupled to the data network (Col. 7, ln. 58-57, “each device connects to one of the physical in-home media... through a device interface... each such device interface provides a physical connection to the network media... and two-way digital communication over the media”);

a network/bridge device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, each device includes a CODEC in order to enable communications between the legacy device and the network, see claim 67 above for a detailed explanation of the CODEC’s operation);

a legacy device interface (Fig. 1, items 31 and 311; Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 8, ln. 12-14, “each device interface D implements a physical/electrical interface for the particular device”) coupled to the network/bridge device interface module (Fig. 4, items 55 and 57; the analog interface of each device, i.e. the legacy device interface, is coupled to the CODEC, i.e. the network/bridge device interface module), the network/bridge device interface module adapted to receive communications from the data network (Fig. 4, item 57; Col. 14, ln. 3-4 and 25-28; the CODEC receives digital communications from the data network through the

use of its corresponding HPNA interface, as discussed above for claim 67), to transform the communications into legacy signals that are compatible with the legacy device (Fig. 4, items 21, 32, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, and 63; Col. 13, ln. 20-23, “the device specific interface **312** providing digitals communications for the analog telephone **32**”; Col. 13, ln. 50-54 and 64-66; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 13-17, and 25-28; digital communications may be received via the network from other devices and are accordingly translated from digital to analog through the use of the HPNA interface, PAD, CODEC, and analog interface), and to output the legacy signals to the legacy device using the legacy device interface (Fig. 4, items 21, 32, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, and 63; Col. 13, ln. 20-23, “the device specific interface **312** providing digitals communications for the analog telephone **32**”; Col. 13, ln. 50-54 and 64-66; Col. 14, ln. 3-4, 13-17, and 25-28; digital communications may be received via the network from other devices and are accordingly translated from digital to analog through the use of the HPNA interface, PAD, CODEC, and analog interface) without the aid of the gateway or data network (Fig. 1; the GATEWAY provides access to external methods of communication such as CATV, X-LINK, and ADSL; internal communications occur without connection to the GATEWAY through the use of the POWER LINE and/or TWISTED PAIR; Fig. 4, items 31 and 311, communication clearly occurs between the audio system component, item 31, and the specific device interface, item 311, without connecting through the GATEWAY), the network/bridge device interface module further adapted to transform the legacy signals into

signals that are compatible with the second electronics device (Abstract, ln. 17-22; Fig. 1; Col. 14, ln. 3-4 and 25-28; each device is enabled by its CODEC and its specific device interface to communicate over the mediums 21 and 23 with the other devices of the in-home network) and to output the signals to the second electronics device (Abstract, ln. 17-22; Fig. 1; Col. 14, ln. 3-4 and 25-28; each device is enabled by its CODEC and its specific device interface to communicate over the mediums 21 and 23 with the other devices of the in-home network) without the aid of the gateway or the data network (Fig. 1; the GATEWAY provides access to external methods of communication such as CATV, X-LINK, and ADSL; internal communications occur without connection to the GATEWAY through the use of the POWER LINE and/or TWISTED PAIR).

The examples of Fig. 4 and its corresponding telephone are exemplary only. Applicant should not interpret the use of the telephone to reject the language of claim 67 above and the use of the same language to reject the legacy device of the instant claim as using identical parts of Edson to reject more than one device of the instant application. Edson discloses numerous devices and specific device interfaces (see Fig. 1 of Edson), but only discloses the telephone in great detail, so it is best relied upon for detailed descriptions of the logic used to reject the claims here, but the other devices such as item 31 of Fig. 1, the audio system, are relied on here to represent the legacy device and item 311 of Fig. 1, the audio system's specific device interface is relied upon to reject the legacy bridge device.

Edson is silent on the legacy bridge device comprising a legacy network output interface coupled to the second electronics device.

However, Edson discloses both a legacy bridge device connecting to a legacy device and including a legacy network input interface (as discussed above for the instant claim) and a second electronics device coupled to a first electronics device that acts as a legacy bridge device (see claim 67 above). Therefore, the only discernible difference between the instant claim and the prior art of Edson appears to be that the legacy bridge device in the instant claim is providing a connection to a plurality of legacy devices, as opposed to Edson where each legacy device includes its own specific device interface (see Fig. 1 of Edson).

Official Notice (see MPEP 2144.03) is taken that providing a plurality of interfaces housed within a single electronics device is extremely well known in the art. Devoting a separate device to each needed interface is a waste of both the time and resources needed to manufacture a separate housing for each interface. Instead, it is a much more beneficial situation to provide multiple interfaces in a single housing where possible in order to cut down on the needed hardware.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by providing a plurality of interfaces to devices in a single bridge device as is extremely well known in the art in order to gain the above-mentioned advantages.

22. As to claim 72, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, including the legacy device is a CD player (Edson: Col. 1, ln. 26-28, “an audio system, often comprising interconnected components such as... a compact disk... player”; Col. 7, ln. 35-42, audio system components, the aforementioned compact disk player as one such component, are networked).

23. Claim 70 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson as applied to claim 67 above, in view of Bloomfield et al. (Bloomfield), U.S. Patent No. 5,555,100.

24. As to claim 70, Edson discloses the invention substantially as in parent claim 67, including a power network (Col. 7, ln. 29-30, “there are power outlets for connections all over the premises”), wherein the first electronics device further comprises a power input interface connected to the power network (Col. 7, ln. 29-30; clearly, it is known that an electronics device requires power to operate and includes an interface to connect to a power network), but is silent on a power monitoring and control module connected to the power input interface and adapted to monitor and control power flow into and out of the first electronics device.

However, Bloomfield discloses a power monitoring and control module (Col. 4, ln. 15-22, “a visual power-on indicator” corresponds to a power monitoring module and “a fused AC surge protector” corresponds to a power control module) connected to a power input interface (Col. 4, ln. 15-22, “a female AC coupler”; all of the power interfaces and devices are contained with a single electronics device, i.e. the router) and adapted to monitor (Col. 4, ln. 15-22, “a visual power-on indicator”) and control power flow into and out of an electronics device (Col. 4, ln. 15-22, “a male AC coupler”, “a female AC coupler”, “a fused AC surge protector”, “a visual integrity indicator”; power flows into and out of the electronics device through the male and female couplers, and control is performed through means such as the fused AC surge protector and the visual integrity indicator).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by including a power monitoring and control module connected to a power input interface as taught by Bloomfield in order to provide power to other devices through the use of the electronics device’s power input interface and in order to protect devices from power surges through the use of the fused AC surge protector, without needing an external power surge protector (Bloomfield: Col. 4, ln. 15-22).

25. Claim 73 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson and what was well known in the art as applied to claim 71 above, in view of Humpleman et al. (Humpleman), U.S. Patent No. 6,198,479 B1.

26. As to claim 73, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, but are silent on the legacy device is a DVD player.

However, Humpleman discloses the legacy device is a DVD player (Col. 23, ln. 45-59, “control of a... DVD player... is implemented with the aid of a single control loop... the control loop may be implemented by connecting the devices to a home network”).

As seen, Humpleman is similar to Edson in that it is directed to controlling devices over a home network. Therefore, Humpleman and Edson are clearly analogous arts directed to similar problems with similar solutions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by including a DVD player as a legacy device as taught by Humpleman in order to expand the monitoring, control, and networking of legacy devices (as discussed above as being taught by Edson, see claim 67) to newer technologies than those discussed in Edson such as DVD players as taught by Humpleman. To not do so would render Edson obsolete as newer technologies emerged and the ones mentioned by Edson alone potentially became outdated.

27. Claims 74 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson and what was well known in the art as applied to claim 71 above, in view of Edens et al. (Edens), U.S. Patent No. 6,611,537 B1.

28. As to claim 74, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, including the legacy device communicates with the legacy device interface (Fig. 1, items 31 and 311; Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 8, ln. 12-14, “each device interface D implements a physical/electrical interface for the particular device”) according to a digital data communications protocol (Col. 12, ln. 21-31, “device-specific application **47** controls the physical interface **48** to conform to the physical signaling protocols utilized by the connected device”; Col. 14, ln. 32-36, “device-specific application **47**, in this case the application for TCP/IP communication... and for interaction with the POTS telephone”), but are silent on the protocol being an AES/EBU digital data communication protocol.

However, Edens discloses the protocol being an AES/EBU digital data communication protocol (Col. 93, ln. 2-9, “having... AES/EBU... interfaces”).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson and what was well known in the art by including

the AES/EBU protocol as taught by Edens in order to make use of a standard protocol for communicating audio data to network devices (Edens: Col. 93, ln. 2-9, “directly handles... analog audio inputs and digital audio input... the resulting output... can be provided to... devices having... AES/EBU... interfaces”). This is especially true given Edson’s inclusion of audio system components as one type of device being networked in the home (Edson: Fig. 1, item 31; Col. 7, ln. 35-42).

29. As to claim 77, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, including the legacy device communicates with the legacy device interface (Fig. 1, items 31 and 311; Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 8, ln. 12-14, “each device interface D implements a physical/electrical interface for the particular device”) according to a digital data communications protocol (Col. 12, ln. 21-31, “device-specific application **47** controls the physical interface **48** to conform to the physical signaling protocols utilized by the connected device”; Col. 14, ln. 32-36, “device-specific application **47**, in this case the application for TCP/IP communication... and for interaction with the POTS telephone”), but are silent on the protocol being a Firewire digital data communication protocol.

However, Edens discloses the protocol being a Firewire digital data communication protocol (Col. 5, ln. 16-22; Col. 7, ln. 48-56).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson and what was well known in the art by including the Firewire protocol as taught by Edens in order to make use of a standard protocol to quickly move data between personal computers and peripherals (Edens: Col. 5, ln. 16-22) in a network (Edens: Col. 7, ln. 48-56).

30. Claim 75 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson and what was well known in the art as applied to claim 71 above, in view of Rao et al. (Rao), U.S. Patent No. 6,253,293 B1.

31. As to claim 75, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, including the legacy device communicates with the legacy device interface (Fig. 1, items 31 and 311; Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 8, ln. 12-14, “each device interface D implements a physical/electrical interface for the particular device”) according to a digital data communications protocol (Col. 12, ln. 21-31, “device-specific application **47** controls the physical interface **48** to conform to the physical signaling protocols utilized by the connected device”; Col. 14, ln. 32-36, “device-specific application **47**, in this case the application for TCP/IP communication... and for interaction with the

POTS telephone”), but are silent on the protocol being an S/PDIF digital data communication protocol.

However, Rao discloses the protocol being an S/PDIF digital data communication protocol (Col. 2, ln. 16-21, “S/PDIF”).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson and what was well known in the art by including the S/PDIF protocol as taught by Rao in order to make use of a standard protocol for the compression and decompression of audio data (Rao: Col. 2, ln. 16-21, “a state of the art digital audio decoder should at least be capable of supporting multiple compression/decompression formats”). This is especially true given Edson’s inclusion of audio system components as one type of device being networked in the home (Edson: Fig. 1, item 31; Col. 7, ln. 35-42).

32. Claim 76 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson and what was well know in the art as applied to claim 71 above, in view of Poimboeuf et al. (Poimboeuf), U.S. Patent No. 6,067,411.

33. As to claim 76, Edson and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 71, including the legacy device communicates with the legacy device interface (Fig. 1, items 31 and 311; Fig. 4, item 55; Col. 8, ln. 12-14, “each

device interface D implements a physical/electrical interface for the particular device”) according to a digital data communications protocol (Col. 12, ln. 21-31, “device-specific application **47** controls the physical interface **48** to conform to the physical signaling protocols utilized by the connected device”; Col. 14, ln. 32-36, “device-specific application **47**, in this case the application for TCP/IP communication... and for interaction with the POTS telephone”), but are silent on the protocol being a Light Pipe digital data communication protocol.

However, Poimboeuf discloses the protocol being a Light Pipe digital data communication protocol (Col. 9, ln. 28-31, “ADAT”, ADAT is short for the ADAT Lightpipe protocol).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson and what was well known in the art by including the Light Pipe protocol as taught by Poimboeuf in order to make use of a standard protocol to output signals to ADAT type interfaces (Poimboeuf: Col. 9, ln. 38-39).

34. Claim 81 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edson as applied to claim 67 above, in view of Edens.

35. As to claim 81, Edson discloses the invention substantially as in parent claim 67, including the first network electronics device interface module (Fig. 4, item 57, "CODEC"), but is silent on a fixed network sample rate data transport protocol module.

However, Edens discloses a fixed network sample rate data transport protocol module (Col. 10, ln. 4-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Edson by using a fixed network sample rate data transport protocol module as taught by Edens in order to ensure that information will propagate from one device to another at consistent time intervals (Edens: Col. 10, ln. 11-19).

Conclusion

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian P. Whipple whose telephone number is (571)270-1244. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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